

Text: Acts 2:4a, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

The opening events must have taken place there, and the remainder of the events must have been out of doors. In the 1st chapter they are assembled in the upper room. We read in the 2nd chapter "they ~~xxx~~ were all together." And while they are thus assembled "there came the sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all of the house where they were sitting." The word for this wind is Pneuma which means either air or breath. You may recognize it as being a part of the English word which has to do with compressed air pneumatic, or pneumonia, which has to do with ~~compressed air~~ a disease of the respiratory organs. If we use the word in the sense that it is Breath, then we can see that this rush of a mighty wind was the very "Breath of God" that came upon them and into their midst.

And we read, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. What took place was a phenomenon that has never been fully explained. Barclay passes it off as being some sort of unintelligible gibberish. David Alexander in Eerdmans Handbook of the Bible states, "Normally the Apostles' difficult Galilean speech would have been hard to follow. Now to their astonishment, everyone ~~in~~ in this mixed ~~group~~ audience heard his own language being spoken." The Galilean ~~speech~~ dialect was uniquely identifiable. We can read of this in Luke's account of Peter's denial of Jesus, when a man accused Peter of

being with Jesus by stating, "Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean." Peter's speech had given him away. ~~Thus it is not possible that this group of Galileans were~~ But if we really want to know what took place, we need to take the Scripture reference and read it for ourselves. The Scripture states very plainly that all of these ~~people~~ Jews who had been living in different parts of the then known world, and who all spoke different languages, were being spoken to by these Galileans in their own native tongue and not in Aramaic.

Barclay and all of the other interpreters who want to explain away the mighty power of God may do so. But I firmly believe that we need to accept that which we cannot completely understand as the sovereignty and majesty of Almighty God. Jesus said, "With God all things are possible," and this we need to believe and accept.

We need to understand what speaking in tongues really means because it has been misused and is questioned very seriously today. When the Disciples were given this gift on Pentecost it was so that they could speak to others in the language that they understood. The speaking in tongues movement is still prevalent today in what we know as the Pentecostal churches. But much of this is not legitimate, because the people who supposedly are speaking in tongues are merely speaking a gibberish that someone supposedly interprets. Most people question the validity of this and with good reason. If we ask the question why we do not have speaking in tongues today, we need to also ask why we would need it? Would it prove anything this morning if I were to begin speaking to you in Latin or Greek? Of course not, and this is the answer. God does not want me to talk to you in anything except English, because this is what we speak and what we understand. There have been cases ^{ON RECORD RECENTLY} that ~~I have read about~~ where a person in a group of worshipers will suddenly ^{OR SOME OTHER FOREIGN LANGUAGE} begin to speak in French or Latin, and when it was checked into the person who spoke ^{WORKING IN THEM} had never taken the language in school, and upon further checking it was learned that there were people ^{FOREIGN BORN LANGUAGE} there who could not speak English and thus the ~~French or Latin~~ was beneficial to them and they were able to hear

the Gospel in their native tongue.

The real purpose of this speaking in tongues was to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and not to show off how wonderful they were. What made it all possible was the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit, and they were people who were literally filled with the Spirit. In fact they were so filled, they were accused of being drunk. To which Peter gave them the answer that it was only 9:00 AM and impossible for them to be drunk. He went on to explain that this was the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as promised by Jesus Christ.

E Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Christmas is the festival of God with us; Pentecost is God in us." To which he adds the question, "Is God more with us than in us?" Which is a very good question, for if God is more in us ~~than we are filled~~ then we can be literally filled up. Filled up with the Spirit. But we must remember that we cannot fill ourselves, this can only be done by God. So then we must put ourselves in the way of being filled.

But when we talk of being filled up with the Spirit, we must realize that this is not just one set thing that happens to everyone. Being filled up with the Spirit manifests itself in different ways in different people. Look at the Apostles and see in them the vast differences that existed in their ministries and lives. Peter was an altogether different person than Paul. But Peter was just as effective in his own way as Paul. Stephen was different from Timothy or Barnabas. Look at the vast difference between Matthew, ~~John Mark~~, and ~~the Apostle~~ John. Each of them lived and worked with Jesus and yet their Gospels tell an altogether different story of Jesus and the things they wanted to impart about Him. This is a good example of how the Holy Spirit works in each person in a unique and different way.

So when we speak of the Holy Spirit, many good Christians are not completely aware of what is being said, because for too long they have thought of the Holy Spirit as something mysterious and elusive that is only evident ~~in the lives of preachers~~

The hour is coming and now is, when the true wor-
shippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth,
for such the Father seeks to worship Him.
Go is spirit, and those who worship Him, must wor-
ship in ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST spirit & truth
BUTLER, PENNSYLVANIA

PENTECOST JUNE 2, 1974

REV. RALPH C. LINK, MINISTER
MRS. VELMA COLLINS, ORGANIST
MR. RALPH COOPER, CHOIR DIRECTOR
JODI MARTE, MARCIA MCBRIDE - ACOLYTES

ORDER OF WORSHIP 10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE MUSIC: "MORNING PRELUDE" READ
"ALLEGRETTO" LYNN

SILENT PRAYER

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 322 "THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION"

*ACSCRIPTION - CHORAL AMEN

*EXHORTATION

*CONFESSION (IN UNISON) "O LORD OUR GOD, GREAT, ETERNAL,
WONDERFUL IN GLORY, WHO KEEPEST COVENANT AND PROMISE
FOR THOSE THAT LOVE THEE WITH THEIR WHOLE HEART, WHO
ART THE LIFE OF ALL, THE HELP OF THOSE THAT FLEE UNTO
THEE, THE HOPE OF THOSE WHO CRY UNTO THEE, CLEANSE US
FROM OUR SINS, AND FROM EVERY THOUGHT DISPLEASEING TO
THY GOODNESS. CLEANSE OUR SOULS AND BODIES, OUR HEARTS
AND CONSCIENCES, THAT WITH A PURE HEART AND A CLEAR MIND,
WITH PERFECT LOVE AND CALM HOPE, WE MAY VENTURE CONFIDENTLY
AND FEARLESSLY TO PRAY UNTO THEE. AMEN."

*KYRIE (CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND PASTOR)

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON - CHORAL AMEN

*PRAISE

*PASTOR: O LORD OPEN OUR LIPS

*PEOPLE: AND OUR MOUTH SHALL SHOW FORTH THY PRAISE.

*DOXOLOGY No. 551

SCRIPTURE LESSON: ACTS 2: 1-21

HYMN No. 188 "HOLY SPIRIT, TRUTH DIVINE"

*AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH (APOSTLES' CREED)

*GLORIA PATRI

*CALL TO PRAYER

*PASTOR: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

*PEOPLE: AND WITH THY SPIRIT.

*PASTOR: LET US PRAY.

*PRAYER AND PRAYER RESPONSE

*FERING

OFFERTORY: "ADAGIO SOSTENUTO" KUHLAN

ANTHEM: "LEAD KINDLY LIGHT" - WOMENS CHORUS - DYKES
SERMON: "FILLED UP!"

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 193 "SPIRIT OF GOD"

*BENEDICTION AND THREE FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "RECESSIONAL" DUNN

----- *CONGREGATION STANDING -----

THE LOVELY FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR HAVE BEEN PLACED BY
MRS. ANN WILLIAMS IN MEMORY OF "HUSBAND" - WOODY.

SERVING AS USHERS TODAY ARE: *ALLEN BOTACCHI, JOHN
REDMAN, DAN BOSKO, ROBERT KNAUER, CHARLES FENAR.

DEACON AND MRS. PAUL RIEMER WILL REPRESENT COUNCIL AT
THE DOOR TODAY.

NURSERY WILL BE PROVIDED TODAY BY SHARON STAUFFER,
LAUREL STAUFFER AND DEBBIE MCBRIDE.

HOSPITALIZED: MRS. HERMAN CUSTEAD 525, MRS. HOMER
BEATTY 624. PVT. KEITH TAIT, TRIPLER ARMY HOSPITAL,
AFO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. 96438.

WE WISH TO CONGRATULATE MR. & MRS. ALTEMUS - FORMER
CHERYL (GILLILAND) ON A NEW BABY GIRL - NOW LIVING IN
EVANS CITY.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS.
W. A. (GLADYS) WINTERS WHO PASSED AWAY THIS WEEK. *ALL*

MONDAY - 7:30 - WOMEN'S MARY PRUGH CIRCLE MEETING. *MR.*

WEDNESDAY - 7:30 - COUNCIL MEETING

THURSDAY - NEWSLETTER WILL BE PUBLISHED - PLEASE HAVE *McClintock's*

ALL MATERIAL IN BY WEDNESDAY.

ARC PICNIC * MEMORIAL PARK - MILLER SHELTER - 6:00 -

ON JUNE 14 - DESSERT AND BEVERAGE WILL BE FURNISHED.

MONDAY - JUNE 10 - 7:30 P.M. - MRS. ARTHUR HAUSER WILL
BE HERE FOR A TEACHERS TRAINING COURSE. ALL OFFICERS,
TEACHERS AND INTERESTED PEOPLE ARE REQUESTED TO BE
HERE.

TODAY IS PENTECOST - A TIME TO REJOICE IN THE PRESENCE
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO INSPIRED THE FIRST APOSTLES
AND WHO EMPOWERS THE CHURCH TODAY TO CARRY ON CHRIST'S
WORK. A PAMPHLET "TIME TO REJOICE!" WILL BE DISTRIB-
UTED TODAY ALONG WITH THE BULLETIN FROM THE STEWARDSHIP
COUNCIL. IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST THE GENERAL
SYNOD HAS ASKED CONGREGATIONS TO OBSERVE PENTECOST
AS A TIME OF SPECIAL FOCUS ON OUR CHRISTIAN WORLD
MISSION.

Attendance - 243

But I firmly believe we need accept that which cannot completely understand as sovereignty & majesty of God. J said, "With God all things possible," this we need accept & believe.

We need understand speak in tongues what really mean if he misused & questioned seriously today. When disc given gift on Pent was so could speak others own language they understood. Speak tongues move still prevalent today. This in church we call Pentecostal. Much this not legitimate, many peop supposedly speak tongue, speak gibberish, & many peop interp really do not.

Most peop question validity with good reason. If we ask quest why we no have speak tongue today, also need ask, "Why we need it?"

Would prove anything if I spoke German, Greek etc this morning?

Course not, & this answer.

God want me speak Eng. cause that we speak There cases on record recent group worshipers, one speak foreign tongue.

When checked person no took language school, & further check show person there speak that language. Thus the foreign tongue so they understand.

(illustration Florida, Italian, Spanish, German)

Real purpose speak tongue, to spread Gospel Js Xp. & not show off how wonderful they were.

What made all possib was indwell Holy Sp.

They peop literally filled Holy Sp.

Fact so filled, peop thot drunk

To which Pete explained only 9:00 AM & imposs be drunk

He went on explain this manifestation of Sp, which Js predict.

E. Stanley Jones once pointed out, "Xmas festival of God with us; Pent is God in us."

To which add quest, "Is God more with us, than in us?" Good quest.

If God more in us, we literally filled Up.

Filled Up with Sp.

Must remember cannot fill selves,

only done by God

We must put selves in the position to be filled When talk be filled Sp, must realize no one set way happen everyone.

"Filled Up!"

Text: Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Today Pentecost,

This from Greek PENTECOSTOS, meaning 50th.

It Pentecost 50 days after Passover AD 30,

it fell on Sunday May 28th.

Tradition has it 1st Pente took place Upper Room

In 1st chap read they assembled there

2nd chap read, "They were all together."

& while they thus assembled, "There came the sound like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all of the house where they were sitting."

Greek word wind is PNEUMA which mean air or breath.

Perhaps you caught English word taken from it,

Pneumatic which compressed air,

or Pneumonia which respiratory disease.

If use word in sense ~~xxxxxxx~~ rush of air as Breath, then we can see it Breath of God, that came into midst.

And we read, "They were all filled with the H SP. and began to speak in other tongues, as the Sp gave them utterance."

What took place was phenomenon never fully explained

Barclay passes off as unintelligible gibberish.

Dave Alexander in Erdmans Handbook of Bible,

"Normally the Apostles difficult Galilean speech would have been hard to follow. Now to their astonishment, everyone in this mixed audience heard

own language being spoken."

The Galilean dialect was uniquely identifiable

We read this in Luke account Peter denial Js

man accuse Petek being with Js stating,

"Certainly this man also was with him; for he is a Galilean."

Peters speech gave him away.

But if really want know what took place, we must

read scripture reference for self

Scripture states very plainly all of these Jews who

had been living in all parts then known world, all

spoke different languages.

They were now being spoken to by these Galileans in

their own native tongue and not in Aramiac or Hebe

Barclay & all other interpreters who want explain

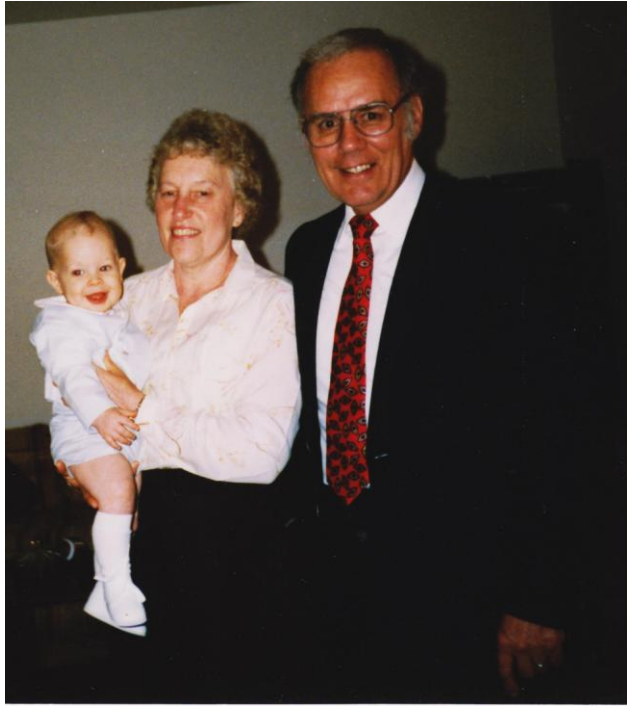
away mighty power of God, may do so.

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
Ethan and Alisha in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Married: December 15, 1951
Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill
Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him. A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.